CLAIMS

Having thus described my invention, what I claim as new and desire to secure by Letters Patent is as follows:

1. A method of combining results of a plurality of feature discriminating techniques applied to an article including steps of

validating one of a result of a first feature discrimination technique and a result of a second discrimination technique when said results correspond to each other,

validating or rejecting a result of said first feature discrimination technique against expected or permitted values,

validating or rejecting a result of said second feature discrimination technique against expected or permitted values, and

outputting a validated result for control of a sequential selective process while rejecting only articles where neither of said results is validated.

2. A method as recited in claim 1, including the further step of

augmenting a validated result of one of said first and second feature discrimination techniques with a validated result of another of said first and second feature discrimination techniques prior to said outputting step.

3. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein one of said first and second feature discrimination techniques is optical character recognition.

4. A method as recited in claim 1, wherein one of said first and second feature discrimination techniques is reading of machine readable indicia.

5. A method as recited in claim 4, wherein said machine readable indicia is a bar code.

6. A method as recited in claim 3, wherein one of said first and second feature discrimination techniques is reading of machine readable indicia.

7. A method as recited in claim 6, wherein said machine readable indicia is a bar code.

8. A method as recited in claim 2, wherein one of said first and second feature discrimination techniques is optical character recognition.

9. A method as recited in claim 8, wherein one of said first and second feature discrimination techniques is reading of machine readable indicia.

10. A method as recited in claim 9, wherein said machine readable indicia is a bar code.

11. A selective sequential processing apparatus including

means for validating one of a result of a first feature discrimination technique and a result of a second discrimination technique when said results correspond to each other,

means for validating a result of said first feature discrimination technique against expected or permitted values,

means for validating a result of said second feature discrimination technique against expected or permitted values, and

means for outputting a validated value for control of a sequential selective process while rejecting only articles where neither of said results is validated.

12. Apparatus as recited in claim 1, further including

means for augmenting a validated result of one of said first and second feature discrimination techniques with a validated result of another of said first and second feature discrimination techniques prior to outputting said result.

13. Apparatus as recited in claim 11, wherein one of said first and second feature discrimination techniques is optical character recognition.

14. Apparatus as recited in claim 1, wherein one of said first and second feature discrimination techniques is reading of machine readable indicia.

15. Apparatus as recited in claim 14, wherein said machine readable indicia is a bar code.

16. Apparatus as recited in claim 12, wherein one of said first and second feature discrimination techniques is optical character recognition.

17. Apparatus as recited in claim 16, wherein one of said first and second feature discrimination techniques is reading of machine readable indicia.

18. Apparatus as recited in claim 17, wherein said machine readable indicia is a bar code.

19. Apparatus as recited in claim 11, wherein said selective sequential process is sortation of articles.

20. Apparatus as recited in claim 18, wherein said selective sequential process is sortation of articles.